



Application No.: 09/522,294  
Attorney Docket No.: 03500.014341

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A multibeam scanning optical apparatus comprising:  
a light source having a plurality of light beam emitting sections;  
a light deflector for deflecting a plurality of light beams emitted respectively  
from [said] the plurality of light beam emitting sections of said light source;  
a scanning optical system for [focussing said] focusing the plurality of light  
beams deflected by said light deflector on a surface to be scanned; and  
a photodetector for controlling a timing of a start of scanning of [said] the  
plurality of light beams by detecting [a part of said] at least one of the plurality of light  
beams deflected by said light deflector as at least one detection light beam[s],  
wherein the timing of the start of scanning is controlled to align the centers  
of scanning areas of [said] the plurality of light beams with each other on the surface to be  
scanned while allowing starting points of scanning of [said] the plurality of light beams to  
differ from each other when [said] the plurality of light beams have respective wavelengths  
that are different from each other.

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2. (Twice Amended) A multibeam scanning optical apparatus according to  
claim 1, further comprising:

a detection optical element for converging [said] the at least one detection  
light beam[s] and leading [them] the at least one detection light beam to said photodetector,

wherein said detection optical element has its optical surfaces arranged orthogonally relative to the at least one detection light beam[s].

9. (Amended) A multibeam scanning optical apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said incident optical system comprises a first lens for collimating each of said plurality of light beams emitted from said light source and a second lens for [focussing] focusing each of said plurality of collimated light beams on the deflection plane of the optical deflector as a linear image extending in the main-scanning direction.

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